

Stamp: OIPE OCT 12 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1

1

1

1

1

•

;

1

OCT 15 2004

Technology Center 2600

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Introductory Comments

Applicant's representative conducted an interview with the Examiner on October 7, 2004, to discuss the outstanding final Official Action, mailed July 12, 2004. In order to advance prosecution, Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and an Interview Statement, along with this Preliminary Amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows.